

**JOINT DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As the below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenship are as stated below next to our names;

We believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING INSTRUMENT WITH SHUTTER the specification of which:

☒ [ x ] is attached hereto.

☐ [ ] was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ and, if applicable, was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

**Prior Foreign Application(s)**

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Date of Issue (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. 119
Japan	309934/2002	24 October 2002		Yes[ x ]    No[ ]

**Prior Provisional Application(s)**

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(c) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Serial Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

**Prior United States Application(s)**

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Application Serial Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Status - Patented, Pending, Abandoned

And we hereby appoint, both jointly and severally, as our attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith the following attorneys, their registration numbers being listed after their names:

Jerry W. Mills, Registration No. 23,005; Scott F. Partridge, Registration No. 28,142; James B. Arpin, Registration No. 33,470; and Timothy J. Churna, Registration No. 48,340.

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We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature: Jun Takeda Date: September 30, 2003

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